

*CESA #11(Cooperative Educational Service Agency)
Rural Health Dental Clinic - Menomonie, Wisconsin*

Background Paper

Introduction: The CESA #11 Rural Health Dental Clinic opened in January 1997, with one fixed site at Chippewa Valley Technical College in Menomonie, Wisconsin. The clinic provided dental services one day per week at the fixed clinic site and one day per week via mobile clinic outreach. The operating and capital equipment costs were supported by a three-year federal Rural Health Outreach grant.

In 2001, the Dental Clinic became one of two Rural Health Dental Clinics that were awarded state funds, \$355,600 annually. Statutorily designated counties served are Barron, Chippewa, Dunn, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, and St. Croix. The other Rural Health Dental Clinic, Family Health Center of Marshfield, (\$232,000) serves Rusk, Price, Taylor, Sawyer and Chippewa.

The CESA #11 Clinic provides comprehensive oral disease prevention and treatment services for persons who are developmentally disabled, elderly or who have low incomes. The Rural Health Dental Clinic is certified to serve Medical Assistance and BadgerCare recipients, and also serves uninsured patients using a sliding-fee-scale.

Project Goals, Objectives: Increase access to preventive and restorative oral health services for underserved populations (developmentally disabled, elderly and low-income) in 7 counties (Barron, Chippewa, Dunn, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, St. Croix, and the rural areas of the surrounding contiguous counties).

Objective 1: Provide preventive and restorative oral health services, and oral health education to 2,500 unduplicated patients at or below low-income guidelines, 475 disabled patients, and 375 elderly patients in the targeted service area. Establish an Early Childhood Caries Prevention program targeting CESA 11 Head Start and Early Head Start children, as well as collaborating with area WIC programs.

Objective 2: Develop project sustainability and expansion by securing other federal, state, and community resources.

Rural Health Dental Clinic Exceeded 2003-2004 Expected Outcomes:

- Overall, there were 11,553 patient visits to the CESA #11 Rural Health Dental Clinic
- Over 500 children enrolled in CESA #11 Head Start/Early Head Start were provided dental examinations and fluoride varnish applications
- Over 400 school aged children had oral screenings and dental sealants placed in school based settings within the designated counties
- 6,692 patient visits for dental hygiene services
- 4,861 patient visits for restorative services
- 7,754 visits were patients of record
- 3,505 residents were new patients
- 2,548 visits were for disabled residents receiving prevention and restorative treatment services

Service Delivery Sites and Personnel: Fixed and mobile sites are staffed with dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants, a receptionist and a clinic director. There are approximately 1,500 people on a waiting list for each fixed site. Fixed clinical sites are located in:

- St. Joseph's Hospital, Chippewa Falls
- Sawyer County Health Department, Hayward
- Chippewa Valley Technical College, Menomonie
- Turtle Lake Dental Clinic, Turtle Lake

Mobile outreach sites provide preventive services and arrange restorative services at the closest fixed site. Mobile sites include:

- Ann Street School, Rice Lake
- Lakeside Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Chippewa Falls
- Cornell Area Care Center, Cornell
- Dunn County Health Care Center, Menomonie
- Northern Wisconsin Center for the Developmentally Disabled
- Services are provided 1 day per month
- Rutledge Home for the Aged, Chippewa Falls
- St. Croix County Health Care Center, New Richmond
- Restorative services are provided at St Joseph's Hospital.
- Seventeen schools served by CESA #11 Rural Health Dental Clinic school-based dental sealant programs (2 Burnett, 3 Sawyer, 1 Bayfield, 7 Dunn and 4 Chippewa County Schools). Elementary school children are served with onsite preventive services and emergency restorative care. Restorative services are provided at the closest rural health dental clinic site.
- 12 Head Start Centers in a nine-county area. Examinations and topical fluoride applications are provided at each site

Collaborative Partnerships: The Rural Health Dental Clinic is a member of a consortium that is committed to providing greater access to oral health care for those with low incomes. Partners include:

- CESA #11 Head Start/Early Head Start, Turtle Lake
- Northern Wisconsin Center for the Developmentally Disabled, Chippewa Falls
- Sawyer, Chippewa, Dunn, Pepin, Barron, Polk, St. Croix, Bayfield, Burnett, Pierce County Health Departments
- St. Joseph's Hospital, Chippewa Falls
- Chippewa Valley Technical College
- Northwoods Community Health Center, Minong (Federally Qualified Health Center)
- State of Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services

Unique Service Delivery Model: The CESA #11 Rural Dental Health Clinic provides:

- Non-traditional dental homes in alternative settings (nursing homes, schools) with fixed and mobile clinics
- Model uses evidence-based prevention strategies
 - Fluoride varnish for children enrolled in Early Head Start and Head Start
 - School-based dental sealant programs utilizing dental hygienists as providers
- Life span services (children enrolled in early head start to elderly)
- Service-learning opportunities to Chippewa Valley Technical College in Menomonee (clinical oversight and staffing for the clinical education of dental hygienists)
- Plans are under way to offer clinical rotation sites for Marquette University School of Dentistry dental and residency program students.